

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE NO. 6*

COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE AND ELECTRONICS INTELLIGENCE

1. Communications Intelligence (COMINT) and Electronics Intelligence (ELINT) and the activities pertaining thereto (as defined in paragraph 4 of this directive) are national responsibilities whose importance to national security requires an organization and management which will:

- a. Exploit to the maximum the available resources in all participating departments and agencies to satisfy legitimate requirements for foreign intelligence relating to the national security, including those of the departments and agencies concerned;
- b. Provide for efficiency and economy in the use of technical resources; and
- c. Insure the necessary degree of protection.

Therefore, pursuant to the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, the National Security Council authorizes and directs that COMINT and the COMINT activities of the United States, as well as ELINT and ELINT activities, shall be conducted as prescribed herein. COMINT and ELINT and their associated activities shall be treated as being within the framework of general intelligence activities except as otherwise established under this directive.

2. Only those departments or agencies represented on the U. S. Intelligence Board (USIB) are authorized to engage in COMINT or ELINT activities and only in accordance with the provisions of this directive.

*This directive supersedes NSCID No. 9, revised 29 December 1952, and NSCID No. 17, dated 16 May 1955.

10. The Military Departments. The Military Departments shall be responsible for:

a. The establishment, maintenance, operation and administration of COMINT and ELINT intercept and processing facilities as authorized and directed by the Secretary of Defense.

b. The conduct of those intercept and processing activities (other than cryptanalysis) undertaken under the authority of NSCID 5 as specifically excepted from other provisions of this directive (NSCID 6) by the Director of Central Intelligence. However, to the extent practicable, information pertaining to these activities and derived therefrom shall at all times be handled as to give suitable protection to related COMINT activities or COMINT activities in general. Material which may be collected under these circumstances and which otherwise would have been considered the product of COMINT or ELINT activities will be passed to the National Security Agency to the extent desired by the Director, NSA, as soon as special security requirements of the collector have been satisfied.

c. The conduct, outside the scope of paragraphs 7 and 8 of this directive, of such search, intercept, direction finding, range estimation, and signal analysis of communications and non-communications electromagnetic radiations as must be undertaken to permit immediate operational use of the information in support of electronic measures and countermeasures and rescue operations.

11. The Federal Bureau of Investigation. Nothing in this directive shall be construed to encroach upon or interfere with the unique

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